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**FORMER PEDIATRICIAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL CHARGES
OF ENGAGING IN FOREIGN SEX RING INVOLVING CHILDREN**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that STEFAN IRVING was sentenced today to more than 21 years (262 months) in prison after being convicted on charges of traveling to Mexico and Honduras for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with minors. IRVING was sentenced before United States District Judge LEWIS A. KAPLAN in Manhattan federal court.

After a one-week jury trial in September 2003, IRVING was found guilty of all counts in a five-count superseding Indictment with committing various sex offenses against children.

According to a Complaint and the Indictment, in 1996, federal investigators undertook a nationwide law enforcement initiative focusing on individuals suspected of traveling to Mexico for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with children. The investigation came to focus on a resort known as Castillo Vista del Mar, located in Acapulco, Mexico.

According to the testimony at trial, the investigation demonstrated that Castillo Vista del Mar operated in 1998 and 1999 and existed to cater to adult males who lived in the United States and desired to have sex with boys in Mexico. The evidence in court showed that IRVING, a former pediatrician, was a patron of Castillo Vista del Mar.

According to the court papers, the boys who stayed at Castillo Vista del Mar often were homeless orphans or for other reasons living on the streets and beaches of Acapulco, Mexico. In exchange for shelter, food, clothing, and gifts, the boys - ranging in age from 6 to 17 - would engage in sexual activity with the adults staying at Castillo Vista del Mar.

The trial evidence included photographs of IRVING's May 1998 trip to Acapulco and visit to Castillo Vista del Mar. The Government also played for the jury two examples of the pornographic movie files found on IRVING's home computer. Furthermore, the Government presented numerous letters, journals, and diaries written by IRVING. In those writings, IRVING discussed his sexual interests in young children, boys between the ages of 6 and 12, and his desire to travel to foreign countries to pursue those interests.

Finally, the Government presented testimony from a Mexican citizen, now 18 years old, as well as the former manager of Castillo Vista del Mar, who is an American citizen presently incarcerated following a conviction in Texas for possessing child pornography. For his part, the Mexican youth described how he,

at the age of 13, was recruited off the streets of Acapulco to live at the resort and how once there he learned that American men visited to engage in sexual relations with children. The resort's manager recounted communications he had with IRVING during the years preceding IRVING'S 1998 visit to Castillo Vista del Mar.

In those communications, IRVING described his sexual interests in young boys and sexual activities he had engaged in with children. The manager also provided testimony regarding IRVING's activities with young children at the Acapulco resort. IRVING's activities included fondling a child in the resort's swimming pool and accompanying at least two children into his private bedroom area at the resort.

IRVING, 56, lived in Brooklyn, New York, prior to his arrest in May, 2003.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL SCUDDER, Jr. is in charge of the prosecution.

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